

Rican people. Brian O'Dwyer is the recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor Award, the Outreach Project Annual Service Award, the New York City Council Spirit of New York Award and, in July 2000, was named a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre by Edward Cardinal Egan of New York.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Brian O'Dwyer and the McManus Democratic Association. To Mr. O'Dwyer and the dedicated professionals, volunteers and friends of the McManus Association, I offer my continuing admiration, respect and support.

RECOGNIZING ALBERT RICHARDS,  
CAIRON AUSTIN-HILL, AND  
MARQUAY WRIGHT FOR EXTINGUISHING A FIRE

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 2, 2004*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize three remarkable young men from my district.

Albert Richards, 14, Cairon Austin-Hill, 14 and Marquay Wright, 12, were walking to school in April 2004, when they noticed a fire burning in an empty field. With no thought for their own safety, they raced over and stamped out the blaze before it could cause any injuries or property damage. Their quick thinking may have averted a major disaster.

As we so often hear about the bad things young people do, it was refreshing and, indeed, encouraging to learn of Albert's, Cairon's and Marquay's actions. These young "firefighters" are examples of the best of America's young people. Their bravery and selflessness are very laudable qualities in people of any age, especially children. I am very pleased to have such fine young men living in my district.

TRIBUTE TO THE 2004 ALL-AMERICAN BOY AND GIRL PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

**HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 2, 2004*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the students in the Third Congressional District of Illinois who participated in the All-American Boy and Girl Award Program. I am proud to report that eighty remarkable students from schools located on the southwest side of Chicago were recognized for their achievements.

I started this program in the late 1960's when I was a Recreation Supervisor for the Chicago Park District. After over thirty successful years, this program is still the cornerstone of my efforts to identify and recognize young men and women who get involved in their community while excelling in the classroom and participating in extracurricular activities.

The All-American Boy and Girl Program recognizes 7th and 8th grade students who live and attend school in the Third Congressional

District of Illinois. The final award winners are selected by a panel of judges comprised of local community leaders, teachers and elected officials.

I would like to pay special tribute to the winners who were announced at a ceremony held on May 7, 2004. Third place was awarded to Emily Masek, Steve Rosenbaum, Ellis Fagan and Robert Edstrom. Second place went to Amanda Meza, Tom Costello, Jessica Jurevis and Jonathan Braun. Finally, first place was awarded to Christine Marie Molina, Damien Fox, Brooke Borowiak, and Andrew Jarzebek.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2004 All American Boy and Girl Award winners and participants on their academic and leadership achievements, and extend to them my best wishes for much success in the future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MAGGIE CAMPBELL

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 2, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise before you to pay tribute to a remarkable woman from my district. Maggie Campbell of Montrose, Colorado has dedicated the last thirty-two years working for the Montrose County School District, and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize her commitment to the Montrose community before this body of Congress and this nation today.

During her career reviewing lunch forms and paying the bills for the schools in her district, Maggie has seen nine superintendents pass through the school district. While Maggie understands that it is unusual to stay in the same position for an entire career, she has the pride of seeing her office grow from the ground up.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise before this body of Congress to pay tribute to Maggie Campbell. Maggie has demonstrated a tremendous commitment to Colorado's youth in her service to the school system and the community of Montrose. Maggie will be sorely missed and I wish her all the best in her retirement. Thank you for your service Maggie, and good luck in your future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MAJOR R. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 2, 2004*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably absent and missed rollcall votes No. 210, No. 211 and No. 212. If present I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 2, 2004*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for votes in this Chamber on

April 2, 2004. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 115, 116, and 117.

In addition, I was inadvertently delayed and missed votes on June 1, 2004. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 210, 211, and 212.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH ACABA,  
FIRST PUERTO RICAN EVER IN A  
NASA ASTRONAUT CLASS

**HON. ANÍBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 2, 2004*

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Joseph Acaba, the first Puerto Rican ever in a NASA Astronaut class. Mr. Acaba, a mission specialist and educator in Dunnellon, Florida, was recently chosen as a member of the 2004 Class of Astronaut Candidates. He is one of three mission specialist-educators, selected from a field of more than 1,000 applicants, who will train with more than 100 astronauts at the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Joseph Acaba, 36, was born in Inglewood, California. His father Ralph was born in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, and his mother Elsie was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Mr. Acaba has been teaching math and science at Dunnellon Middle School since 2000. He has degrees from the University of California at Santa Barbara and the University of Arizona. He is a former Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic and also managed a research station in the Bahamas.

Space travel has intrigued Joseph Acaba since childhood. His father would show young Joseph filmstrips he had saved of the first landing on the Moon. Now, Joseph Acaba is one step closer to being the first Puerto Rican in space or even the first "Boricua en la Luna" ("Puerto Rican on the Moon"), the title of a famous and beloved poem—later turned into a song—by Puerto Rican poet Juan Antonio Corretjer.

Mr. Acaba has said that, besides family photos and hot tamales, he plans to bring the Puerto Rican flag into space. We hope to live to see the day when this happens. In the meantime, we are very proud to have in Joseph Acaba a young, talented and dedicated Puerto Rican who will continue to educate and inspire others through his hard work, his example, his commitment, and his pioneering spirit. How fitting that the first Puerto Rican space trainee is also a much-admired middle school teacher of science and math who has broadened his students' minds.

I ask that you join me in honoring Joseph Acaba, the first Puerto Rican ever in a NASA Astronaut class.

TRIBUTE TO ELDER EDWARD STANTON, SR.

**HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 2, 2004*

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay well deserved recognition to Elder Edward Stanton, Sr. of Memphis, Tennessee.